

**MINUTES OF THE
PUBLIC UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY INTERIM COMMITTEE**

Wednesday, April 16, 2003 – 9:00 a.m. – Room 414/416 State Capitol

Members Present:

Sen. Leonard M. Blackham, Senate Chair
Rep. Stephen H. Urquhart, House Chair
Sen. Mike Dmitrich
Sen. Peter C. Knudson
Sen. John L. Valentine
Rep. Sheryl L. Allen
Rep. Ralph Becker
Rep. Chad E. Bennion
Rep. Greg J. Curtis
Rep. Glenn A. Donnelson
Rep. Brent H. Goodfellow

Rep. Ty McCartney
Rep. Michael E. Noel
Rep. Gordon E. Snow
Rep. Michael R. Styler

Members Absent:

Rep. David Ure

Staff Present:

Mr. Richard North, Policy Analyst
Mr. Thad LeVar, Associate General Counsel
Ms. Jennifer Markham, Legislative Secretary

Note: A list of others present and a copy of materials can be found at <http://www.image.le.state.ut.us/imaging/history.asp> or by contacting the committee secretary, Jennifer Markham, at 538-1032.

1. Committee Business

Chair Blackham called the meeting to order at 9:15 a.m. He excused Rep. Ure who was unable to attend the meeting.

MOTION: Rep. Bennion moved to approve the minutes of the November 20, 2002 meeting. The motion passed unanimously, with Rep. Allen, Rep. Becker, Rep. Curtis, Rep. Goodfellow, and Rep. McCartney absent for the vote.

2. Legislative Wrap-up: 2003 General Session

Mr. LeVar summarized the utility-related bills that were introduced and passed during the 2003 General Session. "2003 General Session Introduced Bills Relating to Public Utilities" and "2003 General Session Passed Bills Relating to Public Utilities" were included in the mailing packet.

3. 2003 Master Study Resolution/Interim Issue Review/Prioritization

Mr. North distributed the H.J.R. 20 Master Study Resolution 2003 Study Items. He requested the committee members prioritize the list and return to him before they left the meeting.

4. Public Service Commission Organization: Public Hearing

Mr. LeVar distributed a handout "Appointed Versus Elected Public Utilities Commissioners."

Sen. Ed Mayne distributed a Deseret News article "Utah Group Opposes Proposal to Elect PSC." Sen. Mayne explained the goal of his legislation was to initiate a public forum to receive input on the structure

of the PSC (Public Service Commission) and determine whether commissioners should be elected or appointed.

Chair Blackham commended Mr. Steve Mecham, Chair, PSC, for the work he has done during the time he has served as the chair of the PSC.

Mr. Mecham expressed support for the current system of appointed public service commissioners.

Mr. Ken Olafson, a citizen of West Valley City, expressed support for elected public service commissioners and stated that he believed there is a need for public regulatory debates.

Dr. Charles Johnson, Utility Consultant in Salt Lake City, expressed opposition to any change in the current system.

Mr. Roger Ball, Administrative Secretary, Committee of Consumer Services, expressed opposition to elected commissioners. He recommended restructuring and combining the PSC and the Committee of Consumer Services.

Ms. Kathy Van Dame, League of Women Voters, expressed opposition to elected commissioners. She suggested retention elections be held for commissioners similar to the elections for judges.

Mr. Roger Weir, UTK, expressed support for appointed commissioners.

Mr. Leon Bowler, Dixie Escalante Electric Association, outlined his experience working with both elected and appointed commissioners and expressed support for appointed commissioners.

Ms. Betsy Wolfe, Salt Lake Community Action Program, expressed support for appointed commissioners.

5. Other Items/Adjourn

MOTION: Sen. Knudson moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously.
Chair Blackham adjourned the meeting at 11:15 a.m.